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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Letter dated 1 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to comment on the recent expulsion from the United States of Ahmed Yousif Mohamed, a Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations.

The United States has evidence that two diplomats from the Sudan Mission were involved in a plot to bomb the United Nations and to assassinate Egyptian President Mubarak. The evidence, presented at the trial of United States v. Omar Abdel Rahman, indicates that the two diplomats provided information on President Mubarak's itinerary and were to provide information and access to the United Nations in connection with the plot to bomb the United Nations. For example, tape recordings demonstrate that the conspirators had access to diplomatic licence plates from the Sudan Mission to gain access to the United Nations Headquarters garage. These plates were to be used to obtain entry for an explosive-laden van to blow up United Nations Headquarters. One of these diplomats, Siraj El-Din Hamid Yousif, departed the United States in July 1995. The United States has now taken steps to require the departure of the second individual.

Siraj El-Din Hamid Yousif and Ahmed Yousif Mohamed were permitted entry into the United States because, as the host country to the United Nations, the United States extends a welcome to diplomats from 184 other Member States to live and work in its country. The United States takes its obligations as the host country very seriously and finds it particularly outrageous that diplomats would not only abuse their privilege of residence in this country by engaging in terrorist acts, but that those acts would be directed against the United Nations

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itself. To have a member of the United Nations diplomatic community plotting to harm the United Nations is disgraceful and patently offensive.

We note that the Sudan Mission has complained that the host country did not fulfil its obligations under the Charter to ensure the necessary conditions for the normal functioning of the United Nations. We wonder how well the United Nations would be able to function if the plot in which Siraj El-Din Hamid Yousif and Ahmed Yousif Mohamed participated had succeeded.

In fact, the United States carried out its host country obligations responsibly under the circumstances. As a host country, the United States has responsibilities with respect to the safety of the Organization and its diplomats and also to the citizens of the United States. This country cannot be used as a safe haven or a base for terrorism. The United States had no option but to apprise your representative, Mr. Hans Corell, and the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations of the terrorist activities of Mr. Mohamed and to request his departure. This decision was made at the highest levels of the Department of State.

The United States informed the Sudan Mission by diplomatic note that it was requesting the departure of Mr. Mohamed within a period of 48 hours. The Sudan Mission acknowledged the right of the United States to request Mr. Mohamed's departure, confirmed that he would depart, and engaged in consultations regarding the timing of the departure of Mr. Mohamed's wife and child. The United States Mission acceded to the Sudan Mission's request that Mr. Mohamed's wife and child depart at a later time. The Sudan Mission did not protest the expulsion at any prior to Mr. Mohamed's departure. Moreover, the association of Mr. Mohamed's name with the plot to bomb the United Nations has been in the public domain for some time.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 152 and brought to the attention of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT